

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 897
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mrs. Ruth Morton
Journey Cunningham of Oak Ridge.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Ruth Morton Journey Cunningham; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cunningham was an exemplary community servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Maury County on May 18, 1907, she was the daughter of John William Journey and Ethel Frances Morton Journey; she grew up in Columbia and Springfield and received her higher education at David Lipscomb College, Peabody College, Middle Tennessee State Teachers College, and Ward Belmont College; and

WHEREAS, in her professional career, Mrs. Cunningham served with acumen and alacrity as a teacher, in which position she earned the respect of her peers and students alike for the exemplary quality of her work and her dedication to duty; and

WHEREAS, in 1945, she moved with her husband and two sons to 112 Gordon Road in Oak Ridge, where she would live for the rest of her wonderful life; and

WHEREAS, having previously taught in Giles County, Tennessee, Pinehurst, North Carolina, Corinth-Holder, North Carolina, and Mooresville, North Carolina, she began her service to Oak Ridge Public Schools in 1947; and

WHEREAS, over the next twenty-three years, she would positively impact the lives of countless students, first as a Fifth Grade Teacher at Pine Valley School and then as a Seventh Grade Teacher at Jefferson Junior High School; and

WHEREAS, well respected in her profession and considered a leader of the highest ability, she was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma and the Oak Ridge Retired Teachers Association; and

WHEREAS, also a gifted writer, she was a regular contributor of letters to the editor of *The Oak Ridger* and a fiction and memoir writer whose work was published widely; and

WHEREAS, after retiring, she continued to promote education by opening her home to host international scholars; over the years, visiting graduate students and scientists from more than twenty countries lived in her home, sometimes for months or years at a time; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Mrs. Cunningham was an active member of First Christian Church of Oak Ridge, where she and her husband were leaders from the congregation's early years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cunningham was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, prior to his untimely passing in 1959, she shared much love and companionship with her husband, Elbert C. Cunningham, whom she joined in holy matrimony on June 17, 1933; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cunningham will be dearly missed by her son, E.C. Cunningham, M.D., and daughter-in-law Lynn Blalock Cunningham; son Joel L. Cunningham and daughter-in-law Trudy Bender Cunningham; grandchildren Ellyn Kullmar, Walter Cunningham, Charles Cunningham, Nancy Cunningham, and Susan Cunningham; nine great-grandchildren; sisters Will Frances Journey Sanders and Margaret Morton Porter; sisters-in-law Mildred Ross Cunningham, Iva May McMurtry, and Ruth Cunningham Rucker; and nine nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cunningham leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity, probity, compassion, loyalty, diligence, and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional human being and educator; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Ruth Morton Journey Cunningham, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character, her service as an educator of the greatest merit, and her life of courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Cunningham.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.